HISTORICAL GEOLOGY 1234, MWF 10-10:50, BO 100

Instructor: Lisa Black Knightstep,  
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TEACHING PHILOSOPHY
I believe good teachers share their knowledge and rouse the curiosity of their students. I have high expectations of students, and I want them to have high expectations of me. I come to class organized and prepared, and ask students to do the same. I treat students politely and fairly, and ask them to treat me and their fellow students the same way.

COURSE OBJECTIVE
Students will gain broad knowledge on the evolution of Earth and life through time, as well as practical knowledge of geologic techniques, applications, rocks, minerals, and fossils.

Text Book
Historical Geology, Wicander and Monroe, 6th ed.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION
1. Introduction to Geology (chap. 1)  
2. Origins of the Universe, Solar System, and Earth (chap. 1)  
4. Plate Tectonics (chap. 3)  
5. Geologic Principles, Time, and Fossils (chap. 4 & 5)  
6. Evolution (chap. 7)  
7. The Precambrian Earth and Life (chap. 8 & 9)  
8. The Paleozoic Era, Earth and Life (chap. 10 – 13)  
10. The Cenozoic Era, Earth and Life (chap. 16, 17 & 19)

GRADING POLICY
Grades are measures of performance. Grades do not reflect my opinion of you as an individual or your worth as a person. The lecture portion of the class will account for 75% of your course grade and the lab for 25%.

Lecture – 75% of course grade  
3 tests each worth 25%  
Please see the policies on Make-up tests  
Extra credit of up to 12pts onto lowest lecture test score is offered, please see handout for details

Lab – 25% of course grade. See lab syllabus for details  
Attendance is required; students who miss 3 or more labs may be dropped from the course.
CLASSROOM RULES/POLICIES

I expect students to be on time for class and to not leave early. You may expect the same from me. Someone stop me when my fifty minutes are up! Students are required to attend class; I take attendance and will report excessive absences to the appropriate persons on campus – Coaches, Campus life etc. Athletes it is your responsibility to notify instructors prior to each athletic related absence.

Cell phones should be placed on vibrate when class is in session. **Cell phone use is not allowed during exams – lecture or lab.** Use of a cell phone may be perceived as cheating and could result in immediate collection of your test and further consequences. For any part of the exam that requires math you must bring a calculator or do it the old fashioned way.

I have found that students who do not attend lectures usually do not do well on the exams. Reading the assigned chapters in the textbook will help you in this class, but will not substitute for attending lecture.

You will be allowed to make up missed exams, lecture or lab, if you provide a University excuse. All other reasons are at the discretion (mercy) of the instructor (lecture or lab), and are not guaranteed. Make-up lab exams must be arranged with the lab instructor and are given at his or her convenience. Athletes it is your responsibility to notify instructors of any absence on a test date and reschedule your exam before the date in question. You are not required to take the exam early, just to make arrangements beforehand. **All make-up exams must be taken within 1 ½ weeks of the missed exam – lecture or lab.** I am usually accommodating when arrangements for rescheduling a test are made ahead of time, but difficult to deal with after the fact.

I expect students to be familiar with and abide by the University's Academic Conduct Policy. Students should refer to the MSU handbook for policies related to student rights, responsibilities, and activities. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Disability Support Services before classroom accommodations can be provided. M.S.U. complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Go to [http://students.mwsu.edu/disability/](http://students.mwsu.edu/disability/) for more information.

I enjoy teaching this class and hope that you enjoy taking it. Do not hesitate to ask questions during class or to obtain help after hours.